

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 069795
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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 069795

E.O. 11652:XGDS1

TAGS: OVIP, PEPR, AF

SUBJECT:AMB. KARIM'S CALL ON SAUNDERS MARCH 17, 1978

SUMMARY: AFGHAN AMBASSADOR KARIM PAID COURTESY CALL ON
INR DIRECTOR SAUNDERS MARCH 17. DAOUD VISIT TO US, DAOUD'S
TRIP TO PAKISTAN, SHAH'S UPCOMING VISIT TO AFGHANISTAN,
MIDDLE EAST, HORN OF AFRICA AND UPCOMING NON-ALIGNED
MEETING IN KABUL WERE DISCUSSED.

1. AFTER OPENING AMENITIES KARIM SAID HIS MAIN CONCERN WAS
TO KNOW STATUS OF CARTER'S INVITATION TO DAOUD TO VISIT
THE US. SAUNDERS SAID CARTER HAD JUST SENT A MESSAGE TO
DAOUD ON THIS SUBJECT. SAUNDERS DESCRIBED SUSBSTANCE OF
MESSAGE AND SAID DESK OFFICER WOULD PROVIDE HIM WITH
COMPLETE TEXT EARLY NEXT WEEK.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 069795

KARIM EXPRESSED GRATITUDE AT BEING INFORMED. NOTING THAT
HE WAS SPEAKING QUOTE PERSONALLY UNQUOTE KARIM SAID THAT A
DAOUD TRIP IN NOVEMBER OR DECEMBER MIGHT BE USEFUL AS IT
WOULD GIVE DAOUD A CHANCE TO ADDRESS THE UN. SAUNDERS
CAUTIONED KARIM AGAINST COUNTING ON NOVEMBER OR DECEMBER.
SAUNDERS SAID WE ARE PROBABLY TALKING ABOUT NEXT YEAR AND
THAT SINCE THE VISIT HAS ALREADY BEEN AGREED TO IT WOULD

HAVE A HIGH PRIORITY.

2. KARIM SAID THAT DAOUD'S VISIT TO PAKISTAN WAS VERY SUCCESSFUL AND AS A RESULT THERE IS A GREAT FEELING OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. HE ADDED THAT THE ECONOMIC JOINT COMMISSION WHICH HAD BEEN FORMED AS A RESULT OF THE VISIT WOULD PROBABLY BE MODELED AFTER THE ONE WHICH ALREADY EXISTS BETWEEN INDIA AND AFGHANISTAN AND WOULD DISCUSS TRADE AND TRANSIT MATTERS AND POSSIBLY THE NOMADS. KARIM SAID HE HOPED THAT SOMEDAY A SIMILAR JOINT COMMISSION COULD BE FORMED BETWEEN AFGHANISTAN AND THE US.

3. AMBASSADOR KARIM NOTED THAT SHAH MIGHT VISIT KABUL IN NEXT FEW MONTHS AND SAID THIS VISIT COULD BE USEFUL. KARIM SAID THERE WERE NO POLITICAL DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES BUT IRAN HAD QUOTE PROMISED UNQUOTE DOLLARS 2 BILLION WORTH OF CREDITS TO AFGHANISTAN AND THIS WAS NOT YET FORTHCOMING. KARIM SUGGESTED THIS MATTER WOULD PROBABLY BE DISCUSSED DURING ANY SHAH-DAOUD MEETING.

4. IN RESPONSE TO KARIM'S QUESTION ON THE MIDDLE EAST SAUNDERS SAID US NOW ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN UN AND IS LOOKING TOWARD AN IMMINENT SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING. SAUNDERS SAID US POSITION IS THAT ISRAEL SHOULD WITHDRAW AND THAT ARRANGEMENTS SHOULD ALSO BE MADE TO RESTORE STABILITY AND SECURITY IN SOUTHERN LEBANON. SAUNDERS
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 069795

SAID THE US WOULD BE ASKING THE MEMBERS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL TO URGE THE SECRETARY GENERAL TO CREATE A UN FORCE TO OCCUPY AREA IN CONJUNCTION WITH A LEBANESE FORCE.

KARIM ASKED IF ISRAELIS WOULD THEN WITHDRAW. SAUNDERS SAID WE BELIEVE THE ISRAELIS WOULD WITHDRAW IN THOSE CIRCUMSTANCES BUT THE MAIN QUESTION IS ONE OF TIMING. THE ISRAELIS WOULD NOT WANT TO WITHDRAW UNTIL OTHER FORCES CAN BE PLACED IN AREA. THE US VIEW IS THAT THE ISRAELIS HAVE TO GET OUT AND HAVE TO GET OUT QUICKLY.

KARIM ASKED ABOUT THE UPCOMING BEGIN VISIT. SAUNDERS SAID CARTER AND BEGIN WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY HAVE TO DISCUSS INVA-SION BUT HE HOPED IT COULD BE COMPARTMENTED SO THAT THEY COULD DISCUSS THE PEACE NEGOTIATIONS WHICH ARE THE MAIN ITEM ON THE AGENDA. IN RESPONSE TO OTHER QUESTIONS FROM KARIM, SAUNDERS SAID THAT BY AND LARGE SYRIANS HAD NOT ENGAGED THE ISRAELIS AND US DID NOT EXPECT ANY GREAT BREAKTHROUGHS DURING BEGIN VISIT BUT WE HOPED THAT AFTER BEGIN RETURNS TO ISRAEL AFTER TALKS AND MEETS WITH CABINET THERE MIGHT BE SOME PROGRESS.

KARIM THEN ASKED ABOUT THE SITUATION IN THE HORN OF AFRICA. SAUNDERS SAID HE WAS NOT SURE HOW SITUATION WOULD EVOLVE AND HE HOPED CUBANS WOULD PULL OUT EVENTUALLY.

AT CLOSE OF MEETING KARIM MENTIONED THAT HE HAD BEEN DISCUSSING AGENDA FOR KABUL NON-ALIGNED MEETING WITH OTHER REPRESENTATIVES IN NEW YORK. KARIM SAID HE WAS TRYING TO GET VERY GENERAL QUESTIONS PLACED ON AGENDA SUCH AS QUOTE THE WORLD POLITICAL SITUATION UNQUOTE AND QUOTE THE WORLD ECONOMIC SITUATION UNQUOTE. KARIM ADDED THAT SOME COUNTRIES MIGHT ASK THAT SPECIFIC ISSUES BE PUT ON THE AGENDA SUCH AS THE MID EAST AND THE HORN OF AFRICA OR PUERTO RICO BUT THAT HE WISHED TO AVOID HAVING SUCH CONTROVERSIAL MATTERS PUT ON THE AGENDA AS IT WOULD OPEN
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PAGE 04 STATE 069795

A PANDORA'S BOX. VANCE

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